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Activities not classified by field: coordination and integration of statistical programmes

Coordination of statistical data collection from countries

Report of the Secretary-General

1. At the request of the Statistical Commission at its thirty-second session,[1] the United Nations Statistics Division sent an inquiry to national statistical offices, requesting them to provide any specific examples that they might have identified of duplication of requests for statistical data by international organizations. The Division sent the inquiry to the 53 countries that attended the thirty-second session of the Commission. Eleven countries replied; summaries of their replies are contained in the annex. The replies were considered by the ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities at its thirty-fifth session (Vienna, 18-20 September 2001); lead organizations in the Subcommittee agreed to examine each instance in which a country had reported duplication (see E/CN.3/2002/29, para. 25).

2. Organizations are carrying out the examinations. Some examples of duplication have been confirmed; the involved organizations are looking at possible actions to improve the situation. The Commission will receive an oral report on the issue from the Director of the Division, and a background document will be before the Commission containing reports on as many of the instances cited as possible, as well as observations on some of the issues involved in data collection by the international organizations, particularly coordination to avoid unnecessary duplication.

Notes

[1] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2001, Supplement No. 4* (E/2001/24), chap. I, sect. A.

* E/CN.3/2002/1.

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Annex

Summary of country responses to an inquiry by the United Nations Statistics Division concerning the duplication of data collection from countries by international organizations[a]

Country	*Subject*	*Requesting organizations*
Botswana	None	None
China[b]	Population (annual)	*United Nations Statistics Division*, Asian Development Bank
	Labour force, employment/ unemployment rate (annual)	*ILO*, ADB
	National accounts (quarterly)	OECD, Asian Development Bank
	(annual)	*United Nations Statistics Division*
	Agriculture production (annual)	Asian Development Bank, *FAO*
	Industry production (annual)	*United Nations Statistics Division*, UNIDO
	(monthly)	OECD, ESCAP, *United Nations Statistics Division*
	Price indices (annual)	Asian Development Bank
	(monthly)	OECD, *United Nations Statistics Division*
	Commercial building for sale (monthly)	OECD, *United Nations Statistics Division*
	Not specified	IMF, not specified
Colombia	Employment	*ILO*, IMF, World Bank (recent), (Instituto Nacional de Estadistica e Informatica (Peru))
	Household survey	ECLAC, *ILO*
	Population census	*United Nations Statistics Division*, Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre, ECLAC, World Bank, Inter-American Development Bank

Country	*Subject*	*Requesting organizations*
Denmark	Industrial data (monthly)	Eurostat, OECD, *United Nations Statistics Division*
Estonia	Research and development innovation	Eurostat, UNESCO
Greece[c]	Agriculture, labour	OECD, FAO, ILO etc.
Hungary[d]	Agriculture	*FAO*, Eurostat
	National accounts (annual)	Eurostat, *United Nations Statistics Division*, OECD, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, IMF
	(quarterly)	Eurostat, OECD, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
	Transport (annual)	Eurostat, European Conference of Ministers of Transport/ECE (common questionnaire)
	(quarterly)	European Conference of Ministers of Transport
	Indices of industrial production (monthly)	OECD, Eurostat, *United Nations Statistics Division*
	Producer prices (quarterly)	Eurostat, *OECD*
	PPIs (monthly)	OECD
	Price index of total industry (monthly)	IMF (provided by National Bank of Hungary), *United Nations Statistics Division*
	Research and development	*OECD*, Eurostat
	Number of employees (monthly, quarterly, annual)	OECD, *ILO*
	Average gross earnings (monthly, quarterly, annual)	OECD, *ILO*
	Consumer prices (monthly, quarterly, annual)	Eurostat, Cestat Bulletin, OECD, *ILO*, ECE, UNICEF
Islamic Republic of Iran	Not specified	Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries, Economic Cooperation Organization

Country	*Subject*	*Requesting organizations*
Malta	None	None
Mexico	Births, general demises and foetal deaths (annual)	*United Nations Statistics Division*, Pan American Health Organization
United States of America[c]	Employment/unemployment	OECD, *ILO*, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation

[a] Lead organizations are italicized. In some cases, no organization is italicized, which indicates that no investigation was undertaken, either because the information provided was not specific enough (China — not specified; Islamic Republic of Iran — not specified), the organizations involved are not considered to be within the purview of the current coordination arrangements (Islamic Republic of Iran — demographic), or the country has indicated the problem is minor or improving (Greece — agriculture, labour; Hungary — transport).

[b] Excludes any information about the supply of bank, monetary, public finance and external trade statistics, which is provided by the People's Bank of China, the Ministry of Finance, the State Administration of Foreign Exchange and the Customs General Administration (which does not imply that there is duplication in those areas); China also provides data to IMF under a special arrangement that might duplicate the statistics listed.

[c] Greece referred to a situation in which the same organization requests two or more different national departments for the same data, particularly on agriculture.

[d] Hungary also referred to situations in which the same organization sends duplicative requests to countries; in particular, if an organization produces several publications it may request some of the same data for each publication.

[e] The United States referred to a situation in which the same organization sends duplicative requests to two people in the Census Bureau.